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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/053,007	01/23/2002	Takeya Miwa	Q68157	1215
23373	7590	08/25/2004	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			NGUYEN, PHONG H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3724	
DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/053,007	MIWA, TAKEYA	
	Examiner Phong H Nguyen	Art Unit 3724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 7, 11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The cancellation of claim 5 and the withdrawal of claims 8-10 are acknowledged.
2. Drawing objections and 35 USC 112 rejections are withdrawn due to the cancellation of claim 5.

Claim Objection

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: there is no transitional phrase such as “comprising” or “consisting of” in the preamble of claim 1. It is assumed that “comprising” is used in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
5. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beamenderfer et al. (4,834,674).

Regarding claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11 and 12, Beamenderfer et al. teach a flat cable comprising a plurality of conductors (4/5) wherein end portions of the conductors form a stepped form. See Figs. 2-5. Beamenderfer et al. do not teach no immediate adjacent ones of the conductors are in the same plane. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a plurality of conductors wherein no immediate adjacent end portions of the conductors are in the same plane to accommodate a cable connector wherein

connecting ports are arranged in a way such that no immediate adjacent conductors are in the same plane.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Beamenderfer et al. teach a method of processing a flat cable comprising a plurality of conductors (4/5) wherein end portions of the conductors form a stepped form. See Figs. 2-5. Beamenderfer et al. do not teach no immediate adjacent ones of the conductors are in the same plane. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a plurality of conductors wherein no immediate adjacent end portions of the conductors are in the same plane to accommodate a cable connector wherein connecting ports are arranged in a way such that no immediate adjacent conductors are in the same plane.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on 05/21/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant includes the phrase "no immediate adjacent ones of the conductors are in the same plane" to overcome the rejection based on Beamenderfer et al. Although Beamenderfer et al. teach two adjacent signal wires 4 are on the same plane, one skilled in the art would have been motivated to provide only one signal wire 4 to accommodate a connector having single signal wires but not pairs of signal wires.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phong H Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-4989. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 703-308-1082. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PN: *pn* *aj*
August 20, 2004 *Allan N. Shoap*
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700